NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

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Dear Local Presidents:

THE fall meeting of the Board of Managers, which convened in Washington, D. C., November 9–15, marked the conclusion of our Golden Jubilee observance. Therefore it was especially appropriate that we were able to hold this meeting in our nation's capital where in 1897 the dream of our Founders first took tangible form.

The Board convened at an earlier date than in other years in order that the meeting would not encroach too closely upon the Christmas season.

Evaluating the Four-Point Program. One of our most important purposes was, of course, to evaluate our progress in carrying out the Four-Point Program and to see how we might promote its four areas even more extensively.

Accordingly, the discussions at the state presidents' conference on Tuesday evening, November 11, centered around the accomplishments of every state in each of the four areas. And the main topic at the national chairmen's conference, which met on the same evening, was "Education for World Understanding." Then during the Board sessions on November 12–13 each state president gave a two-minute summary of the ways in which his state was furthering the Four-Point Program.

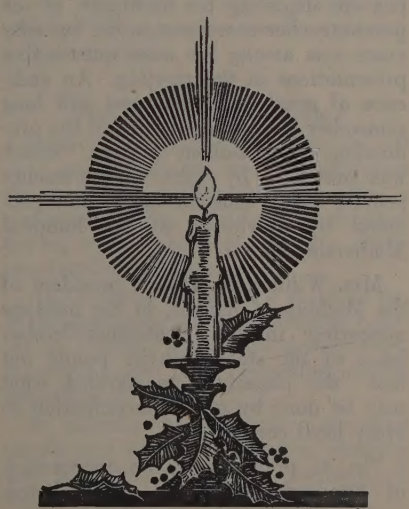
These bird's-eye views of our current achievements were heartening indeed, for we are assured that our leaders in P.T.A.'s all over the country are advancing the Four-Point Program in many outstanding ways.

This year just prior to the Board meeting we held a national-state relationship conference. The meeting, held on Monday, November 10, gave us an unusual opportunity to discuss the many phases of parent-teacher work that call for a smooth working relationship between the national and state levels of the organization.

There were many important outcomes of our thinking together at the Board meeting, and these will emerge as the various reports are prepared and relayed to you through our information channels.

National Convention. Plans for the 1948 convention merited their share of attention, and as details materialize in the months ahead we shall keep you informed. I can tell you now, however, that the convention will be held in Cleveland, Ohio, on May 24, 25, and 26, 1948. There the official headquarters will be at the Hotel Statler, and the general sessions will convene at the Cleveland Auditorium.

On the Social Side. This year several social events in connection with the meeting deserve special mention here. Foremost among them was an invitation to members of the Board for tea at the White House on Wednesday, November 12, as guests of the First Lady. Mrs. Truman's generous invitation continued a precedent begun in 1897 when Mrs. Grover Cleveland entertained the delegates who attended the First Congress of Mothers. Then on Thursday, November 13, members of the Board were guests of honor at a reception given by Mrs. Harold Walker, daughter of Alice McLellan Birney, and Mrs. Lawrence Wood Robert, Jr., granddaughter of our Founder. Among the guests were several members of the President's Cabinet and other prominent Washington citizens.



The Board was also entertained by the District of Columbia Congress at a tea held in the Carlton Hotel. The guests included the local P.T.A. presidents in the District, as well as the superintendent and principals of the Washington Public Schools.

These events, though secondary to the sober purposes of our meeting, nevertheless did much to draw us closer together in social companionship. And a spirit of good fellowship is truly essential when we have so many serious responsibilities to discharge together.

National Safety Conference. In the past we have held regional safety conferences to which state presidents and state safety chairmen were invited. This year, however, it was decided to hold one large national conference at which all fifty state branches would be represented. The conference was held on November 14–15 directly following the Board meeting so that as many as possible of the presidents and safety chairmen might attend. We were happy that even the safety chairman from Hawaii was able to be with us. Because there was not enough time for each chairman to present a report, eight regional reports based on information supplied by the state chairmen, served to give us an over-all view of what has been achieved in the field of safety during the year.

Distribution of Teacher's Kits. Most of the kits of supplies for teachers overseas have reached their destination by this time. The American National Red Cross informs us that early this fall six hundred of the kits were shipped to the Greek Red Cross and twelve hundred to the Polish Red Cross. The rest of the kits were included in an October shipment to the Italian Red Cross. I am sure every one of us is glad to know that many teachers will have a happier Christmas and an easier school year because of our efforts on their behalf.

An interesting sidelight on our international education project was a request from the Red Cross to use one of the teachers' kits in an exhibit of Junior Red Cross materials. This exhibit was displayed at the Second General Conference of UNESCO held November 6 in Mexico City. The assistant national director of the organization pointed out that this example of what our P.T.A.'s are doing to assist in the rehabilitation of teachers and schools might influence other organizations represented at Mexico City to go forward with similar programs. We are proud that delegates to the UNESCO Conference may learn what the National Congress has done—and will continue to do in the future—to further world understanding.

• Between now and January 1 all of us will be busy with the many joyous duties that are a part of Christmastide. May each of you find the true happiness expressed in this first stanza of J. G. Holland's lovely poem *A Christmas Carol:*

There's a song in the air!
There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer
And a Baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire where
the Beautiful sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles
a King.

Faithfully yours,

Mabel W. Hughes

President
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

JAPANESE P.T.A. MEMBERS

• Frequent bits of news from Japan tell us that the parent-teacher movement there is becoming stronger day by day. For instance, Paul T. Dupell, a captain in the Air Corps, writes enthusiastically of the Tokyo P.T.A. organized for the two American schools attended by children of parents and teachers in that area. "Recently the Japanese produced an excellent film strip on the organization of the P.T.A. and the resultant benefits," Captain Dupell relates. "Over five thousand prints have been distributed by various agencies. Truly, the P.T.A. is becoming international!"

Then from Bernice MacFarland, also stationed in Japan, comes an account of the organizing of a P.T.A. in Oi. Though there are only about three hundred families in the village, more than three hundred mothers and elder daughters attended the first meeting in September. Miss MacFarland finds the *National Parent-Teacher* invaluable in her work. "I am looking forward to the copies of the P.T.A. magazine," she writes, "for I know they will prove useful. I have used the 'Anniversary Copy' many times."

Some of the members of a P.T.A. recently organized in the village of Oi, Japan.

Christmas Won't Be Merry . . . Unless It's Safe!

This year, as in the past, many a Christmas holiday will be saddened by needless accident. Haste, Carelessness, Foolhardiness—will they appear at YOUR Christmas festivities? Or have you invited Caution, Common Sense, and Safety?

Here are some of the reminders that may help to keep Christmas *merry* instead of tragic:

• When removing the cover from the roaster or other cooking utensil, lift the far side first so that the steam won't reach your face.

• Don't place the Christmas tree too near an open fireplace. See that the fireplace is properly screened. Be careful to keep tissue wrappings, paper boxes, and ribbon away from the flame.

• Make sure that electric Christmas tree lights and other decorative electric items are in good condition. See that extension cords are out of the way so that no one will trip over them.

An Impressive Pageant

At the Michigan state convention a pageant depicting the highlights of the parent-teacher movement in the last fifty years was among the most outstanding presentations at the meeting. An audience of nearly five thousand will long remember the impressiveness of the production, "Our Golden Tribute," which was presented by 1,200 parent-teacher people, with a musical background provided by a chorus of six hundred Mothersingers.

Mrs. William M. DeVoe president of the Michigan Congress, in her message appearing in the September-October issue of the state bulletin, points out that "the pageant demonstrated what may be done by group participation in every local community.

"In its preparation, the cooperation of hundreds of people was enlisted. Strangers came to know each other, neighbors found they had something in common with the people next door. Hidden talents were discovered and put to use. A new community interest was stimulated. Parents, teachers, ministers, farmers, school janitors, members of boards of education, businessmen, men and women representing many professions enjoyed working together. Social and economic status, difference in race, color, or creed were forgotten. Barriers ceased to exist as individuals in community after community, worked together in one activity."

Although we cannot always undertake so ambitious a project as this one, there is a point to be remembered nonetheless: When choosing a money-raising project, for instance, think carefully of how many wholesome by-products might be derived along the way. Then show preference for the event that will do more than raise money; choose one that will help to foster community solidarity at the same time.

The Community Answers "Yes"

THE October issue of the *Bulletin* carried a questionnaire on the prevention and control of juvenile delinquency at the local level. And now we have the story of how one community is busy answering "Yes" to those eleven questions.

Huron, South Dakota, a small city with a population of approximately 12,000 is not much different from many other American communities its size. During the depression, the war, and the postwar years, the P.T.A.'s of the city had done what they could to combat the problem of increased juvenile delinquency. But though their work was good, it was not good enough. There were too many gaps in the total effort, too little coordination of community groups.

It was only when the P.T.A.'s joined hands with other organizations in a strong, purposeful community council that things really began to happen.

Evaluating the Local Scene

First, there was an honest appraisal of the community's resources. It revealed the following positive factors:

- Good character-building agencies.
- A conscientious juvenile court judge.
- Cooperative officials of the law.
- Alert and energetic juvenile protection chairmen in the P.T.A.'s as well as in the other organizations represented on the council.
- Leaders in the community who recognized juvenile needs and were willing to help remedy local shortcomings.

But these negative factors also came to light:

- There was no community recreation program.
- There was no recreation center geared closely to the needs of young people.
- The character-building agencies had failed to reach the majority of children and youth.
- Existing laws for the protection of youth were highly inadequate.
- There was no detention home for young offenders against the law.
- There was no probation officer.
- There were far too many commercial forms of entertainment detrimental to youth.

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With these assets and liabilities on their juvenile protection ledger, the community council settled down to the business at hand—establishing a well-rounded program of community recreation.

Hurdling Early Barriers

Recognizing the futility of setting up such a program without a firm financial base, the council first sought to obtain municipal legislation permitting a two-mill levy to be raised for recreation purposes. Council members circulated the petitions necessary, publicized the good results that could be achieved by means of the levy, and secured passage of the measure by a sweeping majority.

Three more steps were necessary before plans for a city recreation program could be drafted. Those steps were the drawing up of a city ordinance, the enactment of the ordinance, and the appointment of an efficient recreation board. These barriers were hurdled in rapid succession, and the planning soon got under way, with help from school representatives and members of the local park board.

Trained recreation leaders were sought to direct the city program and to supervise the activities of the youth center, which was to be established in available space at the high school. And in order that really competent people might be secured, the budget was drawn to provide substantial salaries—a point to be remembered by any group contemplating a recreation program.

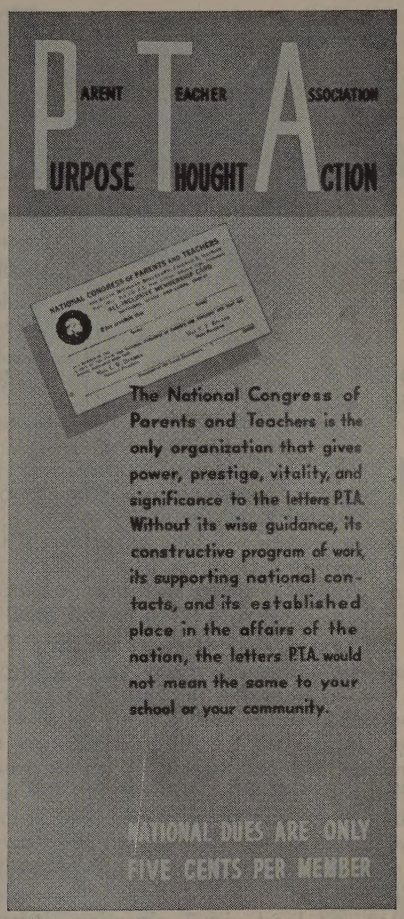
Soon the young people themselves were helping to raise funds for youth center equipment by giving a dance, at which P.T.A. people served as patrons and patronesses.

The Program Broadens

After the recreation program was off to a good start, the council petitioned the county commissioners to employ a probation officer, permissive legislation having already been passed at a previous legislative session.

And still the council saw much to do. It directed attention to inadequate housing as a factor in juvenile delinquency. It worked for laws compelling closer inspection of foods.

By enlisting the cooperation of young people and adults in collecting clothing and foods for the needy overseas, it helped to build community solidarity.


PTA
ARENT EACHER SSOCIATION
URPOSE HOUGHT CTION
The National Congress of Parents and Teachers is the only organization that gives power, prestige, vitality, and significance to the letters P.T.A. Without its wise guidance, its constructive program of work, its supporting national contacts, and its established place in the affairs of the nation, the letters P.T.A. would not mean the same to your school or your community.
NATIONAL DUES ARE ONLY FIVE CENTS PER MEMBER

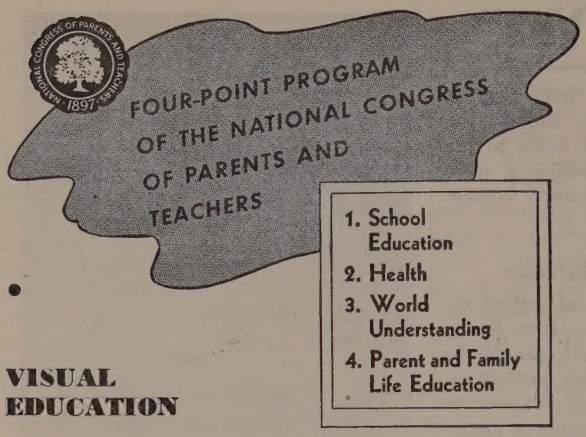
Here is a suggested poster that will turn attention toward the value of the P.T.A. in the community.

Although Huron cannot yet answer "Yes" to all eleven questions on the October questionnaire, it is well on its way in that direction. All P.T.A.'s in the city are stressing parent education study groups in the knowledge that juvenile delinquency often stems from home situations in which parents fail to understand their children's problems.

Other communities are now looking to Huron for aid in setting up similar recreation programs, and this assistance is being cheerfully given. What has been done can be repeated in countless other communities if the leading townspeople will only join forces, survey the needs, recognize the problems, set about solving them, and continue to follow up and strengthen the adopted program.

What can your community answer?

GERTRUDE E. FLYTE, *Chairman*
Committee To Make Recommendations on Follow-Up of National Conference on the Prevention and Control of Juvenile Delinquency



VISUAL EDUCATION

INSTRUCTIONAL and documentary films can make invaluable contributions to the Four-Point Program of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers if parent-teacher leaders will take advantage of the many fine films dealing with each of the four areas. At local, district, state, and national meetings such films can teach desired truths in a highly effective way—provided they are used correctly.

Of course, it is easier to plan a P.T.A. meeting around talks or addresses on any given subject than it is to use a motion picture as the basis of a program. The film must be procured; so must a projector, a screen, and an operator. Above all, the program planners must know how to use the film intelligently so as to promote a stimulating discussion. This takes work, but the results—as shown in industry, in the armed forces, and in the schools—far outweigh the amount of time and effort involved.

The following motion pictures in each of the four areas are all 16mm. sound films. They are recommended to state and local visual education chairmen and to P.T.A. leaders at all organizational levels. The list is merely a beginning, for many more excellent films are applicable to our Four-Point Program. It will serve, however, as a point of departure from which to embark on a fascinating tour of exploration:

School Education

Assignment: Tomorrow. 33 minutes. Deals with the vital role of the teacher in the life of our country.

Near Home. 25 minutes. A British film showing how field trips can contribute to learning.

Pop Rings the Bell. 23 minutes. Why education is important and what benefits the community derives from its schools.

Using the Classroom Film. 24 minutes. Tells, with skill and cleverness, how films may be used to best advantage in the classroom.

Willie and the Mouse. 11 minutes. A comparative laboratory study with mice; suggests some interesting ideas for educational procedures.

Health

Bobby Gets to School. 22 minutes. The advantages of giving a child a physical checkup before he starts school.

Defending the City's Health. 10 minutes. The work of a model city health department; stresses the role of each citizen in a community health program.

Defense Against Invasion. 12 minutes. How vaccination makes the body immune to disease. A Disney production.

I Never Catch a Cold. 10 minutes. "I *never* catch a cold!" boasted George when chided for disobeying health rules. He learned his lesson.

Water—Friend or Enemy. 11 minutes. Correct procedures for keeping water uncontaminated. A Disney production.

SUGGESTIONS FROM OUR NATIONAL CHAIRMEN

Each month several of our national chairmen will offer suggestions for promoting the Four-Point Program. These suggestions should be passed on immediately to the corresponding local chairman as well as to the local Four-Point Program committee. State chairmen, too, are in a strategic position to show how local committees can build unified P.T.A. programs that will bring the full effort of all workers to bear directly on the development of this nation-wide program.

World Understanding

Americans All. 25 minutes. Designed to promote friendly relations among the countries of the Western Hemisphere.

Boundary Lines. 10 minutes. Shows racial and other forms of discrimination and how they can be checked. Unusual animation and art work.

Democracy and *Despotism.* 10 minutes each. Contrasts the fundamental features of democracy and of despotism.

One World or None. 9 minutes. The development of atomic energy and the atomic bomb—and the need for world control of both.

(There are also many films about individual countries, such as Poland, China, India, the Philippines, Eire, Canada, the Soviet Union, Mexico, Japan, and so on.)

Parent and Family Life Education

Alice Adams (dance sequence). 15 minutes. Deals with family problems arising from financial needs, especially in relation to a growing-up daughter.

Junior Prom and *Dinner Party.* 22 minutes each. *Shy Guy.* 12 minutes. Life situations faced by high school girls and boys, with helpful hints for their parents.

Life with Baby. 18 minutes. How children grow, mentally and physically. From studies by Dr. Arnold Gesell at the Yale University Clinic.

You and Your Family. 8 minutes. Designed to stimulate discussion of the problems that affect every family.

You and Your Friends. 8 minutes. Designed to stimulate discussion of vital problems of human relations.

Where To Find More Titles

● Your attention is called to the Spring 1947 issue of the *Film Forum Review,* which contains an annotated list of forty-seven discussion films on international relations. This quarterly periodical is published by the Institute of Adult Education, Teachers College, Columbia University, in cooperation with the National Committee on Film Forums, 525 West 120th Street, New York 27, New York. The subscription price is two dollars a year; single copies, seventy-five cents.

Likewise see the *Health Films Catalogue: An Annotated List,* published by the Educational Film Library Association, Suite 1000, 1600 Broadway, New York 19, New York. The price is one dollar.

Where To Obtain Films

● "Where can I secure films for a parent-teacher program?" asks the P.T.A. program planner. The answer is simple: Ask your state chairman of visual education. He will know the sources of educational films in your state. Generally they can be rented from the state university or state college film library, or from commercial distributors.

—*Dr. Bruce E. Mahan*

MUSIC

MUSIC is an important factor in our daily living. Reaching as it does into every avenue of our existence, it is an integral part of the Four-Point Program.

School Education

1. Interpret to the community the place and function of music in a well-rounded educational program.
2. Urge the establishment of more adequate music libraries.
3. Provide desirable music experiences for *all* children, not merely for the gifted.
4. Help to supply opportunities for young people to continue their musical activities after graduation from high school.
5. Encourage interested young people to take up music teaching as a life work.
6. Encourage more effective use of the radio and of music films.

Health

1. Arrange music programs at hospitals and at homes for the aged.
2. Help to establish music rooms and record libraries; provide tickets and student transportation to concerts.
3. Assist in providing music teachers and musical instruments for ill and handicapped children or veterans.
4. Give information to the public concerning the stimulating and healing qualities of music as a therapeutic agent.

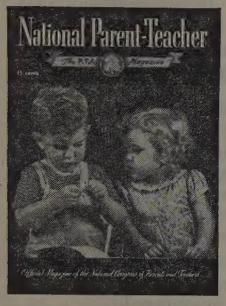
World Understanding

1. Use folk songs in assembly singing as a common language for all nations.
2. Promote folk festivals of song, art, and dance.
3. Discuss the relationship of music and UNESCO.

Parent and Family Life Education

1. Provide parents of preschool children with methods and source materials on preschool music.
2. Keep parents informed about radio programs featuring good music, recordings, books on music, and concerts suitable for family enjoyment.
3. Emphasize the value of music as a deterrent to juvenile delinquency.
4. Encourage family music groups.

—*Mrs. J. W. Heylmun*



A WORD OF APPRECIATION

To—Parent-Teacher Leaders and Magazine Chairmen

● At the close of another challenging year we are grateful to you for your enduring interest in *National Parent-Teacher: The P.T.A. Magazine.* We feel safe in saying that you *are* interested, because you have proved it to us. The magazine now has the largest circulation in its entire history, and it continues to reach new heights each day. During two months alone—September and October—more than 85,000 subscriptions were received at the Magazine Office.

We know that the number of our readers has grown principally because you have been diligent in promoting the *National Parent-Teacher.* Each of you, in other words, is really a member of our "publicity staff," and you are to be congratulated for a job well done.

I wish I might write personal letters conveying our appreciation to you and to all our readers. But the budget of a nonprofit publication is, as you well know, necessarily curtailed. Therefore I take this opportunity to tell you how much your support has meant to us. I know you will pass this message on to all P.T.A. members who are magazine subscribers.

The board of directors and the editors of the *National Parent-Teacher* join me in wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. To you we pledge our best efforts toward giving you in 1948 a publication that meets those standards which will merit your continued enthusiasm.

Very sincerely yours,

Elizabeth B. Wall

President, *National Parent-Teacher: The P.T.A. Magazine*

New Vice-President from Region VII Elected

At the fall meeting of the Board of Managers, Mrs. Howard J. Maughan, former president of the Idaho Congress of Parents and Teachers, was elected vice-president from Region VII. A vacancy in this office had occurred when Mrs. Murl S. Hendrickson, elected in June, moved into another region. This automatically disqualified her from serving in a region in which she did not reside. Mrs. Maughan, who has been active in parent-teacher work since 1935, brings to her new office a rich background of experience in the fields of education and social welfare.

Plan for a Home Garden

Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson believes the nation's home gardeners can continue to help meet the critical world needs for food. In a statement released recently he said:

"The substantial contribution home gardeners can make in increasing the domestic food supply, was proved during the war years. Their help will be enlisted again for the year ahead when many areas of the world will be desperately in need of food.

"The individual contributions of home gardeners may not be large, but in total they can be tremendously significant in adding to our domestic food supply.

"As a beginning gardeners in the South should make full use of their home and community gardens in growing vegetables suited to fall, winter and early spring production. The Department of Agriculture and the Cooperative State Extension Services will, as in years past, stress home gardening and food preservation and assist in providing gardeners with practical how-to-do-it information. Initial plans call for a series of regional conferences of Federal and state officials and community garden leaders. The first of such conferences will be held in the South at an early date.

"By helping himself to meet increasing living costs, the home gardener will be helping his own community to make a precious contribution to a hungry world."

WHAT OUR CONGRESS PARENT-

Toward True Democracy

Last year the Harmar P.T.A. in Fort Wayne, Indiana, carried out an intercultural project that shows what can be done when parents and teachers earnestly seek to instill in children higher ideals of democratic living.

The first step taken by Mrs. John J. Vorndram, local president, was to appoint an intercultural committee composed of five parents, three teachers, and three civic leaders from the school area. Then at the first meeting of the committee all Harmar teachers, administrators, and P.T.A. chairmen were invited to attend and help outline the program for the year. A Brotherhood Program was planned for February, and at this meeting every grade at the Harmar School showed by means of posters, essays, speeches, and songs what each one had done to foster the spirit of brotherhood. For instance, the first grade, which includes Negro children in its enrollment, paid a visit to the Francis Slocum School, where there are only white youngsters. All of them displayed a fine sense of cooperation. In addition, the students, teachers, and parents in the Harmar neighborhood attended the art exhibit sponsored by the colored people of the community. The exhibit included portraits of famous white leaders as well as outstanding Negroes.

At the March meeting, Rabbi Joseph Gorfinkle, chairman of the intercultural committee, gave the story of the Passover, displaying the pictures and text of *Haggada,* the ritual for Passover eve.

The last meeting of the year was held in April, when the pastor of the Calvary United Brethren Church explained the doctrine of love, on which the Christian faith is founded.

Our P.T.A.'s Can Act Quickly

The Port Huron Council of P.T.A.'s, Port Huron, Michigan, has taken exceedingly prompt action on a matter of national interest. A letter dated October 6 from Mrs. Mary Gordon, council secretary, announced that the following motion was passed by this parent-teacher group:

That the Port Huron Council of Parents and Teachers support the President's program of food conservation;

That it allow five minutes of its October meeting for discussion of the program;

That it empower the president of the council to appoint any committee that may be needed for active support of the plan;

That the council be authorized to participate with any other civic organizations in such support; and

That copies of this motion be mailed to the offices of the Michigan Congress and National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

Summary of a Busy Year

The Newport P.T.A. in Ironwood, Michigan, has obviously been a busy unit, for here are some of its activities during the past year, as summarized by Mrs. John Petruska, local president:

- A banquet honoring past presidents and members of the school faculty was held as a highlight of the Golden Jubilee observance.
- A P.T.A. bulletin, carrying local, state, and national news, was published three times during the year with the assistance of the high school commercial department.
- A year's subscription to the *National Parent-Teacher* was offered as a door prize at each monthly meeting.
- Membership has been increased 15 per cent over the previous year, and *the number of men members has tripled.*
- Milk was furnished daily to twenty underprivileged children, straws were furnished to three hundred others, and graham crackers were provided for kindergarten pupils.
- A discussion group met regularly with the visiting teacher to discuss children's problems.
- A family entertainment project was held at Halloween as a money-raising idea that would also succeed in keeping children off the streets and out of mischief on that evening.
- A Carnegie branch library was obtained through P.T.A. efforts, and during the summer months, mothers from the association helped with library supervision.
- Fifteen dollars' worth of magazine subscriptions were given to the library.
- The establishment of a postoffice substation in the vicinity was encouraged.
- A tennis court was maintained throughout the summer.

Under the leadership of these art supervisors, the children in Chicago's public schools created, as part of the work in their regular art classes, more than 2,500 colorful favors and table decorations for the dinners of the Golden Jubilee convention. Shown third from the left in the left-hand photograph is Miss Elizabeth Wells Robertson, director of art, who supervised the entire project.

TEACHER GROUPS *Are Doing*

Scholarship Association Started by P.T.A. Council

The shortage of teachers would not last long if more communities followed the example of Indiana's Allen County Council of Parents and Teachers. Their answer to the crisis was the establishment of an association providing scholarships to encourage deserving young men and women to enter the teaching profession.

The new association, known as the Allen County Council Parent-Teacher Scholarship Association, was started last spring. Nine directors have been named. Five are members of the executive committee of the Allen County Council. The county superintendent of schools and representatives of a professional and a patriotic organization are also members. To handle financial details, a nonprofit corporation has been organized.

A $1,000 gift from the Allen County Council of Parents and Teachers enabled the association to begin operating. American Legion Post 47 has since donated $3,200 to be awarded at the rate of $880 yearly at the discretion of the scholarship association. As further donations are received, additional scholarships will be established.

Besides offering financial assistance to young future teachers, the association expects to promote other projects of an educational nature. The sponsors believe theirs to be the first association of its kind in the United States.

Congress Publications Attend the Fair

"We went to the fair!" writes Mrs. Basil Fischer, Indiana state chairman of publications, who goes on to describe an interesting exhibit of Congress publications set up in the Education Building at the state fair. In addition to published material, the exhibit included a map of the state districts and a chart showing which Indiana radio stations carried *The Baxters* regularly. More than 470 interested visitors signed the register at the booth, among them many students and educators as well as parent-teacher members.

Almost every visitor expressed surprise at the number and the quality of the available publications, and numerous requests were made for organization packets. As Mrs. Fischer expressed it, "We are certain more Hoosiers know about the P.T.A. than before the fair!"

STREAMLINERS

When the New Jersey Congress of Parents and Teachers heard that the hospitalized veterans of Tilton Hospital at Fort Dix longed for a small piano, Mrs. Harold D. Steward, past president, promptly appointed a special committee to see what could be done—and soon the veterans' dream came true.

* * *

The newly organized parent-teacher association of El Portal Elementary School in Richmond, California, has solved the problem of what to do with Preschool Tommy while his mother attends the P.T.A. meeting. Tommy plays happily in a nursery staffed by the mothers themselves who take turns watching over the children, each for a half hour every six months. In order to buy nursery materials, a small charge is made—25 cents for one child, 40 cents for two, and 50 cents for three.

* * *

In order to encourage young people to choose teaching as a profession, the Wellston High School Parent-Teacher Association of St. Louis offers a scholarship to an outstanding graduate who plans to attend a teachers' college.

* * *

Every month for at least the past two years the *Texas Parent-Teacher* has carried an article *written in Spanish* on an important phase of parent-teacher work.

* * *

One parent-teacher association of New Jersey has taken all thirty pupils of a four-room Belgian school under its wing. Members have contributed children's clothing and $150 for the purchase of food supplies.

* * *

New Jersey parent-teacher associations have found that one way of encouraging faithful service in school safety patrol members is to outfit the young officers with raincoats, hats, and rubbers. Many local units in New Jersey also show their appreciation of good service by treating the safety patrols to picnics, luncheons, or educational trips.

* * *

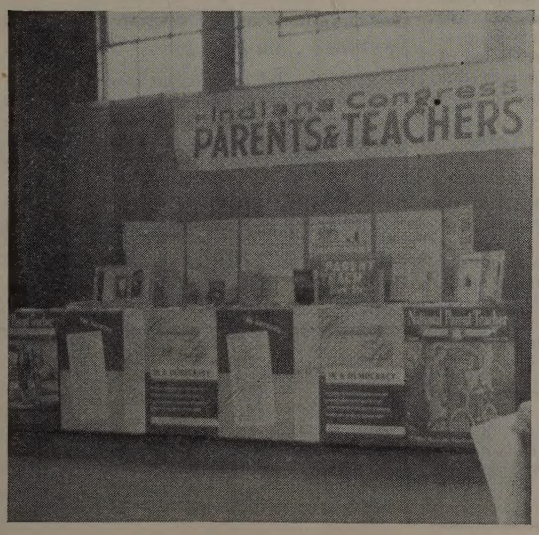
Students of Western Michigan College at Kalamazoo will have an opportunity to become well-versed in the parent-teacher movement now that their college library has acquired fifteen P.T.A. publications as a gift from the Michigan Congress.

* * *

Although mothers were most active in founding the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, ours has never been a women's organization. As a matter of fact, each year more and more men are becoming interested in P.T.A. activities. Take Delaware, for example. According to the 1947 annual report of the state president—*his* name, by the way, is William Jamieson, Jr.—twenty-three of the thirty-nine local units in the state have men presidents, and on the state board of managers men outnumber women by a comfortable margin.

* * *

The handicapped boys and girls who are members of a special class at Junior High School No. 2 in Mercer County, New Jersey, have their own garden. From time to time members of the Mercer County Council of Parents and Teachers have helped out by furnishing seeds, chairs, and a bird bath. Last year's contribution of twenty-five dollars enabled the children to beautify their surroundings still more.



This display of National Congress publications attracted much attention at the Indiana State Fair.

The Baxters are on the air every Saturday, 12:30 p.m., C.S.T., over NBC stations. Don't forget to listen!

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH . . .

In the December issue of
NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER: THE P.T.A. MAGAZINE

The Promising Rebellion
by Joseph K. and Jean R. Folsom

• Is rebellion ever preferable to meek obedience? If so, when? How may we learn when to insist, when to punish, when to yield or look the other way? In exploring these questions, the authors of this month's parent education study course article help parents to see just which kinds of rebellion are promising and which are not.

A Fellow Needs a Friend
by Robert H. Dalton

• In this discerning discussion Mr. Dalton lists not only the tendencies that may keep one youngster from making friends but also the desirable qualities that enable another child to win the affection of his playmates easily. Only by understanding these tendencies, he points out, can parents help their children to form those satisfying friendships that make for happiness.

The Magic Called Music
by Augustus D. Zanzig

• How can a love for music best be nurtured in the child? And if a library of recordings will help, which selections hold the greatest appeal for young listeners? Mr. Zanzig, a music director well-known to parent-teacher convention delegates for his leadership in group singing, gives us the benefit of his expert opinion in this article, knowingly timed for the Christmas season.

Better Lives for All Our Children
4. The Second Security—Competence
by Bonaro W. Overstreet

• What is the relationship between psychological health and the thing called *can-do-ness?* What are the penalties of slight competence in our day-to-day activities? How can we learn to demand enough—but not too much—competence from our children? These are some of the points treated by Mrs. Overstreet this month in her usual unique and forthright style.

"I See by the *Harrison St. News*"
by Maude Hughes Blamphin

• Helping youngsters to carry out an undertaking of their own is one of the deepest satisfactions known to either parent or teacher, as is ably shown in Mrs. Blamphin's delightful account of her young son's publishing venture. Besides occasioning many a chuckle, this heartwarming chronicle will elicit sincere admiration from her readers for the motherly insight displayed.

Founders Day pamphlets have been distributed. If you haven't received your copy, please get in touch with your state congress office.

MERRY CHRISTMAS—1947!

OF COURSE you believe in Santa Claus! Especially when Santa Claus is *you.*

Many of the names on Santa's list are friends, neighbors, and relatives of yours who are also parents or teachers or both. Joan and Don, for example—they had a new baby not more than a month ago. And there is Marge with three growing boys. Oh, yes, and Sally—she's teaching her very first classes at the high school this year.

It is for them—Joan and Don, Marge and Sally, and others like them—that *National Parent-Teacher: The P.T.A. Magazine* is published. Better homes, better schools, better communities—these will be found wherever it is read. For whenever it enters a home, the lives of parents and children alike are enriched the whole year through.

Give the *National Parent-Teacher* for Christmas!

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For Wisdom and Delight
by Dora V. Smith

• "Children feel the urge to read when they can gain what they want by reading," declares Miss Smith, professor of education at the University of Minnesota. And as one of the foremost authorities in the field of children's books, she is eminently qualified to know whereof she speaks. Parent-teacher readers are truly fortunate to have her competent counsel in the choosing of books for young boys and girls as well as for their adolescent brothers and sisters.

Why Must We Help the Displaced Persons?
by Virginia C. Gildersleeve

• One of our most distinguished American women here helps us to see why we must indeed help the displaced persons. A former member of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations, Miss Gildersleeve has had access to the most reliable information regarding the status of these homeless individuals. Every parent-teacher member would do well to read what she recommends in the way of action by the Congress of the United States.